Concession to Senior Citizens in the Telephone rent and Call Charges

†103. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Bujurgon ko phone suvidha mein pahal" which appeared in Dainik Tribune dated 12.10.99 published from Chandigarh;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to provide any concession in the telephone rent and call charges to senior citizens as given in the train fare for travelling in trains;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, sir. Concession is with respect to registration in Non-OYT-Special, a priority category.

(d) It has not been found admissible to extent concession on telephone rentals and call charges due to financial constraints.

Pending Telephone Complaints in Sector-6, Telephone Exchange, Faridabad

104. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Register is lying at the gate of Telephone Exchange, Sector-6, Faridabad (under Faridabad Telecom) where customers lodge their complaints regarding telephone line disorder/disturbance etc.;

(b) if so, the number of complaints lodged during the last six months and the number of complaints not attended to till date, number-wise; and date-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to attend to the complaints in the exchange area expeditiously?

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*Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes Sir, this was done during the rainy season.

(b) No. of complaints lodged in the register during the last six months

6/99 — 746
7/99 — 1153
8/99 — 2466
9/99 — 567
10/99 — 280
11/99 — 118

All these complaints have been cleared.

(c) All the complaints are made over to the FRS (Fault Repair Service) Section. After testing in FRS, faults are attended by the field staff.

Post Offices in Rented Premises in Maharashtra

105. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the post offices which are housed in rented premises in Maharashtra;

(b) the steps taken to build own premises for such post offices; and

(c) whether there are also vacant Government land lying unutilised for several years; if so, whether Government propose to build post office building on the vacant Government land, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The details of such offices are given in the enclosed statement (*see* below).

(b) The Department is constructing 3 (Three) Post Office buildings in the current financial year and has approved 7 (seven) more projects which will be commenced as per plan outlay.

(c) Yes, Sir, there are Government lands lying unutilised for several years, it is proposed to build post office buildings in a phased manner subject to availability of funds.